Amendments to the Figures:

Attached in the Appendix is a Replacement Sheet for FIGURE 2. The Replacement Sheet includes reference numbers 202, 214 and 216, which were inadvertently omitted from the original figures.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims have been amended as set forth above. Claims 3-4 and 15 are canceled. The specification and FIGURE 2 have been amended to remedy minor errors. No new matter has been added.

I. Examiner Interview Dated February 7, 2007

An interview was held on February 7, 2007. An agreement as to allowability was not reached. However, applicants believe that an agreement was reached that the amendments herein push prosecution forward.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-8, 10-17 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,181,781 issued to Porter (hereinafter "Porter"). Applicants respectfully disagree. Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the following combination of features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

> a voice mail switch that is configured to receive an event and an identifier associated with the event; and

> a notification server, coupled to <u>a plurality of voice mail switches</u>, that is configured to perform actions including:

>> receiving the event and the identifier;

>> *<u>generating a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server</u>*;

>> *<u>correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server</u>*;

>> generating an alert; and

>> sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred.

Applicants assert that Porter does not teach the above combination of features. The Office Action states that "Porter's 'mailbox number' reads on the PUID." *Office Action*, at pg. 4. Porter teaches a system for remotely accessing a mailbox by the Internet. The user enters a URL of the voicemail system and the server associated with the URL sends a HTML file to the user as

shown in FIGURE 4. The user then enters a mailbox number to access the mailbox. When the user wants to access another mailbox associated with a different phone, the user must start the process over. Porter does not teach collective message access and alerts from several message stores. In the system of Porter the use must access each store independently. The PUID recited in the claim is not the same as the mailbox number of Porter. Claim 1 specifically recites "generating a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server." Here, the PUID identifies the subscriber. Such identification allows association with a plurality of stores. For example, a first store might be associated with a home phone and a second store might be associated with a cell phone. Applicants can find no teaching in Porter of a PUID that identifies the subscriber. Also, applicants can find no teaching of "correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server." Again, this feature allows events from several stores to be associated with the subscriber. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 1 is allowable over Porter.

Independent claim 13 has been amended to include the following combination of features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

> receiving an event and an identifier associated with the event at a voice mail switch;
>
> forwarding the event and the identifier to a notification server *associated with a plurality of voicemail switches*;
>
> *generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server;*
>
> *correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server;*
>
> generating an alert; and
>
> sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred.

Applicants assert that Porter does not teach the above combination of features. Claim 13 specifically recites "generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server." Here, the PUID identifies the subscriber. Such identification allows association with a plurality of stores. For example, a first

store might be associated with a home phone and a second store might be associated with a cell phone. Also, applicants can find no teaching of "correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server." Again, this feature allows events from several stores to be associated with the subscriber. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 13 is allowable over Porter.

Independent claim 20 has been amended to include the following combination of features that are not taught or otherwise suggested by the cited references:

a means for receiving an event and an identifier associated with the event at a voice mail switch;

a means for forwarding the event and the identifier to a notification server *associated with a plurality of voice mail switches*;

a means for generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server;

a means for correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server;

a means for generating an alert; and

a means for sending the alert to the subscriber indicating that the event occurred.

Applicants assert that Porter does not teach the above combination of features. Claim 20 specifically recites "a means for generating, on the notification server, a personal unique identifier (PUID) that identifies a subscriber registered with the notification server." Here, the PUID identifies the subscriber. Such identification allows association with a plurality of stores. For example, a first store might be associated with a home phone and a second store might be associated with a cell phone. Also, applicants can find no teaching of "a means for correlating the identifier associated with the event with the PUID that identifies the subscriber registered with the notification server." Again, this feature allows events from several stores to be associated with the subscriber. Accordingly, applicants assert that claim 20 is allowable over Porter.

Claims 2-3, 6-8, 10-12, 14, 16-17, 18 and 21 ultimately depend from independent claims 1, 13 and 20. As such, those claims are thought allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

## III. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 9 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porter in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,161,185 issued to Guthrie et al. (hereinafter "Guthrie"). Applicants respectfully disagree. Claim 9 and 18 ultimately depend from independent claims 1 and 13. As such, claims 9 and 18 are thought allowable for at least the same reasons set forth above.

IV. Request For Reconsideration

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all pending claims are believed to be allowable and the application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any further issues regarding this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney for the applicant at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
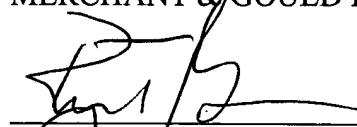
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